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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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Zhivkov Tip Toes Through Czechoslovakia

Unaccustomed as he is to a liberal atmosphere, Bulgarian party leader and Premier Todor Zhivkov is receiving what must be an eye-opening tour in Czechoslovakia.

He is traveling with a new liberal presidium member, Frantisek Kriegel, who is probably giving Zhivkov an earful on the proper approach to socialism. The current Czechoslovak press must also be unsettling for Zhivkov as it calls in varying degrees for separation of party and state, the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, and diplomatic relations with West Germany.

Zhivkov received a preview of the new conditions in Czechoslovakia when he was interviewed by a Czechoslovak

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reporter prior to his departure for Prague. The journalist had the audacity to tell Zhivkov that he did not like the fact that the Bulgarian press did not pay sufficient attention to the events in Czechoslovakia. Zhivkov disagreed but admitted that certain Czechoslovak press articles whose "authors were not writing in the spirit of socialism and proletarian internationalism" were not reprinted in the Bulgarian press.

Zhivkov is reputed to be a shrewd politician and has probably learned some valuable lessons from the Czechoslovak experience which he could apply in Bulgarian should a climate for change develop.

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Warsaw Pact Commander In Prague

Continuing his tour of Warsaw Pact states, Soviet Marshal Ivan Yakubovskiy, commander-in-chief of the Pact forces, arrived in Czechoslovakia on 24 April. Yakubovskiy has previously visited Poland, East Germany, and Bulgaria during his current trip. Yakubovskiy ostensibly visited Prague to "introduce himself...to the newly elected representatives" of Czechoslovakia, but undoubtedly will discuss military and political matters. The sequence of Yakubovskiy's itinerary--Warsaw-East Berlin-Sofia-Prague--suggests again that Moscow no longer regards Prague as one of the "dependables."

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High-Ranking Yugoslav May Become Ambassador to West Germany

Vladimir Popovic, the chief of Tito's personal office, is under consideration for appointment as Yugoslav ambassador in Bonn. Popovic, who is a presidium member and possesses considerable diplomatic experience, apparently is a recent candidate for the post. Others under consideration include career diplomats Nikola Milicevic, Zvonko Perisic and Joze Brilej, vice president of the Slovenian Republic Assembly. Although the Bonn post will be an important one, it would not necessarily represent a promotion for Popovic.

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Albanian Premier Criticizes the Ministry of Education and Culture

Premier Shehu's broadside against the Ministry of Education and Culture may be a prelude to new measures by the regime to eliminate suspected centers of opposition among the country's intellectuals.

In a recent report to the Albanian Workers Party Central Committee, Premier Shehu attacked the Ministry of Education and Culture for damaging neglect--"which must stop immediately"--and urged it to tackle the questions confronting art, culture and education. Reflecting Tirana's uneasiness over the turmoil in Prague and Warsaw, Shehu warned that the recent events in Czechoslovakia and Poland would not be repeated in Albania. He also set guide-lines for country-wide discussions of the problems facing Albania's educational system.

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Polish Ambassador in London Kicks Out His Hardliners

The Polish ambassador in London has successfully countered a campaign conducted by his subordinates to relieve him of his party membership.

Following the adoption of a motion to expel him from the party at a meeting of the Embassy's party organization, Ambassador Jerzy Morawski returned to Warsaw on 16 April.

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Morawski, a "revisionist" former party secretary ousted in late 1959, has nevertheless remained on good personal terms with Gomulka. It is almost certain that the party leader himself decided to call a halt to the incipient hardline move against Morawski, probably viewing it as a potentially serious precedent for other attacks on his erstwhile supporters.

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Gomulka's ability to take this action, together with recent government appointments, suggests that while Moczar may be in charge of the purges, the party boss can still set limits to the campaign when it affects his basic interests.

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